(b) the approximate time taken for giving new cards after submission of forms and old cards; and

(c) the reasons for delay in renewing cards submitted in Shakurbasti dispensary in February, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific time period has been fixed for this purpose.

(c) The renewal of old CGHS cards of CGHS dispensary at Sakurbasti have been returned to that dispensary after completing the formalities for further necessary action. The pensioners are, however, not being denied CGHS facilities with their old cards.

Health Services to be affected by cut in W.H.O. Aid

4199. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation has proposed a drastic cut in the aid extended to India and some other countries in South-East Asia while funds are being diverted to Africa and Europe;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons as given out therefor and steps being taken to seek larger allocations; and

(c) the specific schemes/areas of our health services which are likely to be affected due to the proposed cuts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. One of the recommendations of the Executive Board (EB) of the WHO made to the World Health Assembly (WHA) was to reduce Budget allocations to the South-East Asia region by 48.4% leading to a reduction in the allocation for India by 36.8%. The purpose for such reduction was to provide additional funding to the countries of Africa and Eastern Europe.

At the 51st session of the WHA which met in Geneva from 11-16th May, 1998, the representatives of this region, including those from India intervened and were able to persuade the WHA to modify the recommendation of the EB.

Accordingly, the WHA resolved that the reduction shall not exceed 3% per year, to be spread over six years commencing from 2000AD, which works out to a reduction of 18% for this region. However, the allocation of the least developed countries is not to be reduced beyond their 1998-99 allocation. The exact allocation for India is yet to be determined by the Regional Office.

WHO funds are normally used to fill critical gaps in availability of resources for implementing schemes in the health sector with an objective of achieving Health For All.

Therefore, no health programmes will in any manner, be adversely affected by such reduction in funds though some readjustment in the activities may become necessary.

Permission to market Anti-Impotency Drug 'Viagra' in India

4200. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Drug Controller received application from drug companies for permission to market anti-impotency drug 'Viagra' in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered the social and other implications besides economic, of introducing this drug in the country's market; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. M/s

Cipla, Mumbai, M/s. Sun Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai, M/s. Unichem, Mumbai, and M/s. Ranbaxy Labs, New Delhi have so far applied for registration and manufacture of the drug Sildenafil Citrate (Viagra, a brand of M/s. Pfizer USA) for domestic marketing.

The Drug is claimed to be a powerful medicine for treatment of impotency and is administered orally in the form of a tablet.

However, the drug is contraindicated in coronary artery disease patients, particularly, if they are taking drugs like nitrates.

(c) and (d) Before registration is permitted under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act & Rules thereunder, Pre-clinical toxicity and efficacy studies are required to be conducted by applicants first on animals and then on humans. In adddition, before registration is permitted, economic and social considerations with regard to monitoring is also ensured.

This drug, has however, been allowed for export against valid export orders.

Approval for Medical and Dental Colleges

4201. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the medical and dental colleges and the places at which they have been approved very recently;

(b) the names of the dental colleges whose in-take capacity has been increased; and

(c) the names of those dental colleges of Karnataka whose applications for enhancement of seats are still pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) After amendments to IMC Act, 1956 and the Dentists Act 1948 in 1993 permission of the Central Govt. has been accorded for the establishments of 12 new medical colleges and 24 new dental colleges in the country. The details of these colleges is given in Statement-I & II.

(b) The intake of following dental colleges has been increased after amendment to the Dentists Act in 1993;

1. DVG Dental College, Sullia.
2. Saveetha Dental College, Madras.
3. Oxford Dental College, Bangalore.
4. Balaji Dental College, Bangalore.
5. Yenepoya Dental College, Mysore.
6. Ramachandra Dental College, Chennai.
7. Meenakshi Dental College, Chennai.

(c) The case of PMNM Dental College. Bangalore for enchancement of seats is pending with the Govt.

Statement-I

S.No. Name of medical college

PRIVATE COLLEGES

1. Maharashtra Academy of Medical Education and Research, Pune. Dhabade, Pune.
2. Acharya Shri Chander College of Medical Sciences and Hospital, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu Tawi, Jammu and Kashmir.
3. PV Naramisha Rao Medical College, Jollygrant, Dehradun.
4. Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College for Women, Pimpri, Pune.
5. Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad.
6. Vinayaka Mission Medical College, Salem.
7. Vinayaka Mission Medical College, Kariakal, Pondicherry.
8. Guru Ram Das Medical College and Research Institute, Amritsar.
9. Mamtha Medical College, Khammam.

GOVT. COLLEGES:

10. Medical College, Bhavanagar.
11. Medical College, Rajkot.
12. Academy of Medical Sciences, Sciences, Pariayaram, Kannur, Kerala.